

SENATE RESOLUTION 15

(By Senators Stuart, Woelfel, Rucker, and Jeffries)

[Introduced February 26, 2025]

1 Designating February 27, 2025, as Sexual Violence Awareness Day at the Legislature.

2 Whereas, Sexual violence is recognized as a significant public health problem that has a
3 profound impact on lifelong health and well-being; and

4 Whereas, The most recent National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey ranks
5 West Virginia 5th in the country in lifetime prevalence of contact sexual violence, with nearly two
6 thirds of female residents affected; and

7 Whereas, The number one reason for incarceration in West Virginia's prisons is forcible
8 sex offenses, with an annual cost of over \$53 million for incarcerating inmates in the state's
9 prisons and juvenile facilities for sex-related offenses; and

10 Whereas, The state's 12 regional rape crisis centers and the state sexual assault coalition,
11 the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, have dedicated nearly 45 years
12 of crisis services and prevention efforts to support those impacted by sexual violence and to
13 prevent future victimizations; therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate:*

15 That the Senate hereby designates February 27, 2025, as Sexual Violence Awareness
16 Day at the Legislature; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
18 the West Virginia Foundation for Rape and Information Services.